

Spanish Colonies in America

Governing the empire

- Viceroy
- Lesser officials or advisory councils

Catholic Church

- Converted Native Americans to Christianity
- Built missions and worked to turn converts into loyal subjects of Spain
- Imposed European culture on Native Americans

Trade

- Silver and gold shipped from Americas to Spain.
- Laws passed forbidding colonists from trading with other European nations or even with other Spanish colonies.

Labor

- Native Americans forced to work under brutal conditions on plantations and in mines under encomienda system.
- Laws passed forbidding enslavement and abuse; Spain too far away to enforce them.
- African slaves brought to the Americas.